

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03212 211313Z  
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 EB-07 ERDA-05 SSM-03 IGA-02 AID-05 COME-00  
DODE-00 EUR-12 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /099 W  
-----211350Z 123293 /45

R 211223Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3190  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3212

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS  
SUBJECT: U.S. ARMS SALES POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 115406, (B) STATE 115409, (C) STATE 115244

1. PRESENTED KHADDAM WITH TRANSLATION OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCE-  
MENT OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION IN MAY 21 MEETING. THEN  
MADE TALKING POINTS FURNISHED STATE 115406 WITH THEIR  
PARTICULAR APPLICATION TO ME STATES. PRESENTED FOR HIS  
LATER STUDY FURTHER POINTS ON OUR BASIS ARMS SALES POLICY  
(STATE 115244), SAYING I WOULD WELCOME ANY QUESTIONS HE  
MIGHT HAVE AFTER HE HAD OCCASION TO STUDY THESE.

2. KHADDAM'S INITIAL COMMENTS WERE TESTY. HE ASSERTED  
THAT WHILE THIS WAS A MATTER THAT CONCERNED THE U.S. MORE  
THAN SYRIA, AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE THE PRESIDENT HAD IN  
EFFECT PROMISED ISRAEL A STRONGER POSITION THAN THAT WHICH  
WE WOULD GIVE EVEN TO NATO ALLIES. I REPLIED THAT THIS  
WAS NOT THE CASE, AS HE WOULD REALIZE AFTER HE HAD STUDIED  
OUR TEXTS CLOSELY.

3. SAID THAT PRESIDENT WAS COMING TO GRIPS WITH AN  
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EXTREMELY COMPLEX QUESTION ON WHICH HE WOULD NEED THE COOPERA-  
TION BOTH OF OTHER MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS AS WELL AS ARMS  
RECIPIENTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS. KHADDAM INTERJECTED THAT AS  
FAR AS THE ME REGION WAS CONCERNED, IT SEEMED MOST LIKELY  
TO HIM THAT AMERICA WOULD CONTINUE TO COMMIT MAJOR SUPPLIES TO  
ISRAEL WHILE EXERTING PRESSURES ON EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS TO  
CUT BACK ON THEIR MILITARY SALES TO THE ARABS. I OBSERVED

THAT AFTER ALL THE SOVIETS WERE THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS TO MORE THAN ONE ARAB COUNTRY AND, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, THE SOVIET POSITION WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ITS ANALYSIS OF ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS AS WELL AS WHAT CONCLUSIONS IT REACHED ABOUT OUR SINCERITY IN TRYING TO CUT BACK ON ARMS SALES WORLDWIDE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DESCRIBED THE NEED TO LAUNCH A PROCESS TOWARDS DECREASING ARMS SALES AND AWAY FROM USING SALES AS A ROUTINE INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, THEREBY NEGLECTING POTENTIALLY TOUGH POLITICAL DECISIONS.

4. COMMENT: WE WENT BACK AND FORTH OVER THIS SAME GROUND. I ENDED UP URGING KHADDAM TO REVIEW THE RECORD OF OUR CONVERSATION AND EMPHASIZED THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO WORK FOR ARMS RESTRAINT THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. WHEN WE BROKE OFF, KHADDAM SEEMED STILL CONVINCED WE WERE TRYING TO RATIONALIZE STRENGTHENING ISRAEL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ARABS BUT AT LEAST PROMISED TO STUDY THE WHOLE PICTURE I HAD PRESENTED.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY SALES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 115406, 77 STATE 115409, 77 STATE 115244  
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**TAGS:** MASS, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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